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Chairman: Mr. Suazo ..... (Honduras)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Valdés** (Chile) said that he wished to associate himself with the statement made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The Millennium Declaration had marked the beginning of a process designed to strengthen the commitment of the United Nations to development in order to free peoples from extreme poverty and endemic poverty. With that end in view, the Doha, Monterrey and Johannesburg conferences had been held to promote sustainable development and the financing thereof. While many of their objectives had not been achieved, those conferences had laid the foundation for a new phase of execution and implementation.

2. Despite the constant efforts of many developing countries to incorporate economic policies that reflected the principles of the Washington Consensus in their macroeconomic policies, such policies had not been sufficient to meet the challenges of equity and equal opportunity which were prerequisites for fair, balanced economic development. While genuine political will existed in the areas of good governance and respect for democracy and human rights, it needed to be accompanied by a transparent, non-donor-linked increase in official development assistance (ODA) to the poorest countries and the developed countries must meet the established target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP). It was also essential to respond to the call by developing countries such as his own for free and equitable access to markets.

3. The time had come to put an end to the inconsistency — indeed, the hypocrisy — of a free-market rhetoric that advocated the opening of developing economies while protecting rich economies through numerous subsidies. If trade barriers were lifted, developing countries stood to gain 130 billion dollars, more than double the target set at the Millennium Summit. That was how international trade should be restructured, and that restructuring related to one of the most important issues raised at the Doha Conference.

4. It was therefore urgent to address the problem of fluctuations in the prices of developing countries' exports, which were the direct result of protectionist measures imposed by the developed countries. Only the surpluses of global markets were sold on domestic markets, a situation that was very detrimental to commodity exchange prices in commodity-producing countries. It was also necessary to promote rational, sustainable solutions to the external debt problem that focused on structural issues.

5. That process should draw on broader, more effective developing country participation in decision-making in international economic affairs and must also encourage the establishment of a new international structure capable of predicting, preventing and, where necessary, dealing with economic crises.

6. The concerted efforts of the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the private sector and civil society were helpful: they made it possible to consider solutions that would promote a sharing of responsibilities among all parties and at all levels, with the active participation of economic and regional cooperation bodies and ministries of foreign affairs, finance and international trade; they also contributed to the development of all countries.

7. Furthermore, his Government was convinced that the Johannesburg Summit had resulted in a basic consensus in favour of a global environment programme that sought to protect and stimulate economic development while integrating not only the individual responsibilities of individual countries, but also the shared responsibility of all for the global commons. It was thus of the utmost importance to begin implementing the agreements and commitments that had emerged from the Johannesburg Conference, especially those contained in the Plan of Action.

8. His Government was aware of the importance of the biotechnology sector and of its potential for scientific and economic development. It planned to host the World Biotechnology Forum in Concepción, Chile, in December 2003, in cooperation with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

9. Everyone was aware of the severe economic crisis that some Latin American countries were currently experiencing. The situation was both difficult and complex, particularly since the region had carried out many structural economic reforms in recent years on the recommendation of the international financial and economic institutions. Those reforms had led to a historic economic opening-up and had strengthened

democracy, but they had also worsened the situation of the poorest sectors in the region. That failure could not be attributed to the democratic process or to the economic policies that had been put in place; it must be acknowledged, however, that those economic policies absolutely had to be accompanied by social policies that would generate stability in the areas of employment, health, education and access to housing and would provide social protection through universal, supportive, effective and comprehensive systems.

10. It was becoming increasingly evident that globalization marginalized more than it integrated and that, even in countries where it had been beneficial, the cost of helping those who had been left behind became unsustainable in the short or medium term. The solution did not lie only in economic adjustments and monetary measures, which were based more often on ideology than on scientific data and promoted social and political disintegration; above all, developing countries needed equitable terms of trade, international organizations that did not work solely for the benefit of rich countries, and systems to protect their economies from excessive capital flows.

11. It was essential to regulate globalization. The current international system was inadequate to deal with new realities and must be overhauled. The economic world of 1944 had nothing in common with that of 2002, and the Bretton Woods institutions created at that time, had become ineffective.

12. In order to promote democracy and equity, policies must be human-centred and social unity must be strengthened at the global level. It was clear that market forces had reciprocal effects and that growth strategies required an institutional order and political stability which could not be created without the values and social cohesion that were essential to economic development.

13. In conclusion, he reaffirmed his Government's commitment to the United Nations and to the creation of a genuine, transparent partnership between the industrialized and the developing countries with a view to achieving a better distribution of income and wealth.

14. **Mr. Neil** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) that were also members of the United Nations, said that he wished to associate himself with the statements made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the representative of Samoa on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

15. Growth had been sluggish during the past year as a result of creeping recession and the downturn in commodity prices. Financial markets had been negatively affected by the events of 11 September 2001 and the prospect of a new war.

16. A series of financial scandals had undermined confidence in financial markets and had affected portfolio investments, long-term investment capital and transnational business. There had been setbacks in the opening of markets as a result of significant decisions on industrial tariffs and agricultural subsidies. In a world of increasing interdependence, those developments had a pervasive effect.

17. Thus the holding of the Doha, Monterrey and Johannesburg conferences had been timely. It was now essential to implement the commitments undertaken and to use the consensus achieved as a basis for promoting even higher levels of development cooperation within the international system.

18. For developing countries, it was vital to continue dialogue in order to influence the direction of economic relations and decision-making in all areas of the development agenda, especially those relating to finance, trade and the transfer of technology.

19. Small countries should not be excluded from that process; their economies had felt the effects of exclusion in the area of financial services, where decisions and regulations were made without consultation. It was therefore important fully to respect the principles of transparency, non-discrimination and reciprocity in any system of international regulation. Furthermore, given the vulnerability of the economies of small island developing States, the work programme on small economies should be an essential part of the Doha agenda and the Johannesburg Programme of Action.

20. His Government would also like to see the development of a policy framework to ensure that the international financial system took into consideration and made concessions to the economies of small island developing States and other countries that were vulnerable to natural disasters. Following the recent hurricanes that had caused great damage in several Caribbean islands, resources earmarked for

development had been diverted to relief and rebuilding efforts.

21. In the area of the environment and sustainable development, the use of fossil fuels and the resulting global warming made small island developing States more vulnerable than other countries to storms, storm surges and sea level rise. He therefore urged that efforts to promote adherence to the goals set forth in the Kyoto Protocol should be continued.

22. CARICOM welcomed the recognition given to the special needs of small island developing States at the Johannesburg Conference and looked forward to the frank, comprehensive review of the Barbados Programme of Action that was scheduled to be held in Mauritius in 2004. It supported the call by the Alliance of Small Island States for United Nations Secretariat involvement in the organization of that conference.

23. The draft resolution on small island developing States to be negotiated under agenda item 87 (f) during the current session would determine the framework and parameters for that review. The CARICOM countries were of the view that the Barbados Programme of Action should be strengthened but not renegotiated.

24. The Caribbean States were increasingly anxious about the preservation and sustainable management of the resources of the Caribbean Sea, which could no longer sustain the demands placed on it without a holistic and integrated management approach. They had therefore sought United Nations support for the draft resolution entitled "Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development" and looked forward to delegations' support on that issue, which was so important to the region.

25. **Mr. Blanco Dominguez** (Dominican Republic) commended the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs for the relevance of his statement and agreed that the time for declarations of intention and commitment was past: it was time to present the international community with tangible results that would justify the vast quantity of financial and human resources invested in the many summits and conferences of the past decade.

26. His delegation also wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. It welcomed the various reports submitted to the Committee by the Secretary-General, particularly those concerning the modernization of the Organization, and supported his request for a streamlining of reporting requirements.

27. Despite the shocks which the world had suffered during the past year, the United Nations had successfully organized the Monterrey and Johannesburg Conferences, at which the phases for the achievement of the Millennium goals had been established, particularly for the developing countries.

28. It was now time to develop flexible mechanisms to facilitate the rapid, timely implementation of those agreements and commitments. His delegation would work with other delegations and hoped that the resolutions and decisions adopted would have the anticipated resolve and effect.

29. He supported the holistic approach to the issues reflected in the Monterrey Consensus and reiterated his satisfaction at the efforts of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council to keep initial hopes alive by holding the high-level dialogue on strengthening international cooperation for development through partnership and the spring meeting with the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO.

30. In Johannesburg, States had made a firm commitment to respect the criteria that were prerequisites for sustainable development, criteria that were inseparable from the principles set forth in Agenda 21, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

31. It would be useful to take advantage of and build on the lessons learned from the experience of the Monterrey and Johannesburg preparatory processes, particularly with regard to participation in decision-making by civil society organizations.

32. Lastly, his delegation wished to pay a tribute to the work of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD) and welcomed the appointment of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Countries and Small Island Developing States.

33. **Mr. Kittikhoun** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that there was an error in the list of speakers contained in the Journal; he was speaking on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, which consisted of 30 Member States. He also wished to associate himself with the statement

made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

34. Lack of territorial access to the sea, isolation from world markets and high transit costs made it impossible for landlocked developing countries to be genuinely competitive in the world trading system and hindered their economic development. That geographical situation also made them unattractive to foreign investment and other financial flows, further excluding them from the cycle of the international economic system. All those obstacles undermined their efforts to meet the objectives of poverty eradication and sustainable development.

35. Economic growth was at its lowest level since 1992, and that situation had a major impact on landlocked developing countries' national development policies aimed at attaining the millennium development goals. The Lao People's Democratic Republic was of the view that the issue of poverty eradication as a prerequisite for sustainable development should be addressed through economic growth, trade expansion and development assistance.

36. For the landlocked developing countries, trade was of special importance as a tool for mobilizing resources and stimulating investment and economic development. Thus they strongly called for a trading system that was universal, rule-based, non-discriminatory, inclusive and equitable. WTO must take into account the needs and interests of vulnerable countries, and the principle of preferential and differential treatment should be applied in most areas, including the accession of landlocked developing countries to WTO.

37. In the light of the current economic slowdown, the goal of halving the number of people living on less than one dollar a day by 2015 could not be achieved without real political commitment in terms of financial resources. His Government welcomed the donor community's decision to increase funding in the areas of financing for development and poverty eradication. However, according to World Bank estimates, an additional 40 to 60 billion dollars of ODA would be required in order to achieve that goal.

38. Most of the high-level international conferences of the past year, such as the International Conference on Financing for Development, the special session of the General Assembly on children, the World Food Summit and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, had provided a framework for addressing common concerns. It was time to ensure that the promises and commitments made there were fulfilled. He therefore urged all stakeholders, including Governments, international organizations and multilateral financial institutions, to implement all outcomes of those conferences and summits.

39. At the Millennium Summit, world leaders had called on the international community to provide adequate support for landlocked developing countries so that they could cope with their geographical impediments. The General Assembly could help find concrete solutions to their plight by deciding to convene an International Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation in Kazakhstan in 2003. In order to ensure the success of that meeting, full involvement of all stakeholders, including Governments, organizations of the United Nations system, multilateral institutions and the private sector, would be required. Additional financial resources must also be mobilized, since a considerable portion of the financing would have to come from extrabudgetary resources. In that connection, he expressed his appreciation to the Secretary-General for launching a resource mobilization campaign and welcomed the positive response received from some donor countries.

40. **Mr. Zarif** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that he wished to associate himself with the statement made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. At the current session measures must be taken to operationalize the commitments made at the major development conferences. Given the wide range of issues raised at the International Conference on Financing for Development, it was important for its follow-up mechanism to reflect the long-term requirements of developing countries and for the primary stakeholders to participate fully. Decisions must also be taken to implement the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, including the programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development for the next 10 years, and to continued implementing Agenda 21 while respecting the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The planned measures — relating to, inter alia, the establishment of a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication; replenishment of the Global

Environment Facility (GEF), the financing mechanism of the Convention to Combat Desertification, in order to finance developing country projects, particularly in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy and advanced fossil fuel technology; means of implementation; and institutional frameworks for sustainable development — all required concrete follow-up.

41. Globalization had failed the poor, and recent developments at the international level had shifted attention to the area of peace and security. He was therefore pleased that world leaders had committed themselves at these conferences to strengthening multilateral development cooperation by recognizing the leadership role of the United Nations.

42. As a developing country, the Islamic Republic of Iran had high expectations of the United Nations development agenda in the coming years, for it had the potential to bring about a better, more humane and more secure world for humankind and for the generations to come. Poverty eradication, which should remain a priority for the United Nations, could move forward rapidly with proper policies, institutional capacity and adequate international assistance. However, United Nations capacity-building was constrained by declining financial resources and needed sufficient, secure and stable funding in order to have an impact and meet the growing needs of developing countries. It was therefore necessary to meet the resource mobilization targets set by United Nations funds and programmes.

43. He called on the developed countries, the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to live up to the commitments that they had made at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, particularly in the areas of trade and resource mobilization. As a transit country, the Islamic Republic of Iran looked forward to cooperating with the international community and the landlocked developing countries in particular to ensure the success of the Ministerial Meeting on transit transport cooperation to be held in 2003.

44. **Mr. Requeijo Gual** (Cuba) said that his delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

45. The asymmetries imposed by the neoliberal globalization process and an unbalanced distribution of wealth continued to mark international relations, to the detriment of developing countries. The interdependence of economies and market liberalization had created an even greater imbalance between a wealthy world characterized by rapid economic growth and a world of growing poverty that faced an unsustainable debt burden. The developed countries had reaped the greatest benefit from the information and communication technology revolution which had launched the economic boom.

46. Good governance, which the developing countries were accused of lacking, was also necessary at the international levels. His Government therefore believed that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank should be replaced by new institutions that would actually support developing countries.

47. If the development goals set forth in the Millennium Declaration were to be achieved, the developed countries must give special and differential treatment to the developing countries by providing them with market access and halting the decline in commodity prices. The developing countries' external debt, which drained much of their income, should also be reduced. The situation of the third world, whose people suffered from the HIV/AIDS pandemic, illiteracy and lack of access to essential drugs and basic sanitation, could not be improved without additional resources; the developed countries must honour their commitment to devote 0.7 per cent of their GNP to ODA.

48. The International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development had not yielded concrete solutions to problems such as the need for an integrating vision for sustainable development, poverty and international cooperation. It was time for the General Assembly, through the Second Committee, to consider follow-up measures to ensure that the outcomes of the conferences resulted in concrete action to benefit developing countries. His delegation would pay special attention to certain items on the Committee's agenda, including integrated and coordinated follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, international trade and development, external debt and implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States.

49. **Mr. Lee** Ho-jin (Republic of Korea) said that 2001 had heralded a slowdown in the global economy

and world trade, with the economic downturn in the United States of America having an impact on nearly every country. In the light of the economic interdependence of countries, the international community had the responsibility to ensure that developing countries did not suffer disproportionately from that situation and that their integration into the world economy continued.

50. The past year's international conferences and summits had afforded an opportunity for the international community to renew its commitment to the sustainable development goals set at the Millennium Summit. The International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey should mark the beginning of a continuing process of mobilizing resources, ensuring their effective and equitable use and coordinating the various international organizations and different sectors of civil society through a new global partnership. NEPAD could serve as a model for countries' ownership of their own development with assistance from the international community.

51. The World Summit on Sustainable Development represented a continuation of the spirit of Monterrey in its efforts to outline strategies for combating poverty, preserving natural resources and changing consumption and production patterns.

52. His delegation believed that information and communication technology could promote economic growth in the least developed countries through human resources development if countries with infrastructure and knowledge bases in those areas provided the desired assistance and technical training; it hoped that progress in that area would be made during the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in 2003 and 2005.

53. It was time for the Committee to focus on implementing the outcomes of those major international conferences through integrated and coordinated follow-up in order to ensure timely achievement of the goals set out in the Millennium Declaration. Closer cooperation between the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and the private sector and greater involvement of the Economic and Social Council would be crucial.

54. **Mr. Ramadan** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that he wished to associate himself with the statement made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. He welcomed the holding of a number of conferences on international economic cooperation, which had culminated in positive outcomes and a renewal of the commitments made on poverty eradication and sustainable development in Agenda 21 and the Millennium Declaration. He urged the developed countries to allocate a greater portion of their GNP for ODA, alleviate the external debt burden and open their markets to developing countries so that the latter could integrate themselves in the international economic community, benefit from globalization and narrow the gap that separated them from the developed countries.

55. It was also important to address the problems of environmental deterioration, pollution and the loss of arable land. His own country, whose soil had been badly contaminated by the landmines laid by colonial forces, called on the countries responsible for those mines to respect their commitments in that regard and to assist with the rebuilding of the productive infrastructure in the affected regions.

56. Desiring to achieve sustainable development and to contribute to international cooperation, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had established a number of partnerships with other developing countries by launching joint business ventures, despite the economic restrictions and coercive measures imposed on it in violation of the principles of international law and to the great detriment of its people. It therefore called for a halt to the unilateral imposition of coercive economic measures and for the lifting of sanctions so that it could achieve its full development.

57. His delegation attached great importance to the revitalization of the United Nations system and to the need to reform the international financial institutions so that developing countries would be involved in decision-making. It was also necessary to reform WTO so that those countries could participate in international trade negotiations and decision-making.

58. **Mr. Jalang'o** (Kenya) recalled that two years earlier the Millennium Summit, which had led to the Millennium Declaration and the goals set out therein, had given hope to the world's poorest people. Unfortunately, implementation of those goals and of those agreed at the conferences held in the 1990s, particularly the Earth Summit and the World Food Summit, remained elusive and far behind schedule. The

United Nations should re-examine its commitment to the promises that had been made.

59. The marginalization of the developing countries continued unabated, with rising debt burdens, lower export earnings and capital flows and higher poverty levels. That phenomenon was caused by the developing countries' dependence on commodity exports, their heavy debt-servicing obligations, net financial outflows, limited access to developed country markets and the adverse impact of trade liberalization. High rates of HIV/AIDS infection had aggravated the situation.

60. The internationally agreed ODA target of 0.7 per cent of GNP was far from being realized. The outcomes of the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development held the key to solving the economic problems affecting developing countries.

61. Development could be achieved only through the application of policies that were consistent with local conditions and priorities, which had not been the case with past development programmes for Africa. The current Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers were also problematic, since they preached national ownership and community participation while at the same time imposing conditionalities.

62. He commended the United Nations and the international community for the warm reception accorded to NEPAD. He looked forward to its adoption as the development framework for Africa, replacing the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. However, NEPAD would be successful only if its guiding principles of ownership, partnership and participation were respected and if it was not used as a tool of conditionality.

63. He welcomed the decision taken at the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly to upgrade the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), better enabling it to discharge its mandate in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium.

64. His delegation noted with appreciation the efforts of the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations Office at Nairobi, but observed that the activities of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN-Habitat depended on extrabudgetary resources, which constrained their ability to plan effectively. He therefore called upon the Secretary-General to fund both programmes adequately from the United Nations regular budget.

65. **Mr. Šahović** (Yugoslavia) said that in a year in which the world economy had been slowing, leading to greater uncertainty, the United Nations had nonetheless moved forward in the implementation of the millennium development goals. The past year had been marked by two major events: the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The current session of the General Assembly should be an opportunity for developing a coordinated and comprehensive approach to the follow-up of the development agenda agreed at those conferences.

66. It was difficult to grasp that 3 billion people could still be living in extreme poverty. The situation in Africa was even worse, owing to the devastating effects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic among those who should contribute the most to development. Development in Africa was of crucial importance, a prerequisite for achieving the millennium development goals. His delegation supported NEPAD and the establishment of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

67. Although there was no doubt that development should be pursued using domestic resources, foreign financial support should act as a catalyst in the development of developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Otherwise, it would not be possible to carry out the economic reforms needed to achieve sustainable development and sustained economic growth. Since those goals were clearly compatible and mutually reinforcing, the international community must build on the momentum and ensure rapid and effective follow-up to the commitments entered into at international conferences and summits in recent years. It was essential to continue the fight against poverty, protect the environment and implement what had been agreed in the priority areas of water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity.

68. The best use must be made of existing structures and mechanisms, including the Economic and Social Council, which should play a fundamental role in promoting integrated and coordinated follow-up to and implementation of conference outcomes and in enhancing policy coherence and coordination among the organizations of the United Nations system. To that end, United Nations funds and programmes should create mechanisms and guidelines which would be instrumental in timely implementation of the agreed commitments.

69. The Government of Yugoslavia had adopted a programme of economic reforms aimed at bringing about macroeconomic stability and structural reform, but further assistance was required. The Government was committed to becoming a part of the European integration processes. It intended to sign a Stabilization and Association Agreement with the European Union and was taking part in numerous regional initiatives, such as the South-East European Cooperation Process. Stability in the region, for which international assistance was greatly needed, was a prerequisite for sustainable economic growth.

70. **Mr. Boisson** (Monaco) said that the right to development had long been a matter of interest to the United Nations; it had received institutional recognition in 1981, in the African Charter of Human and People's Rights, and had been enshrined in Vienna in 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna. The Organization had recently strengthened the concept of the right to development by setting clear, quantified goals, at the Millennium Summit, by defining the sources of development, at Monterrey, and by specifying its purpose, particularly the human dimension, at Johannesburg. The United Nations should in future show the determination necessary for honouring those commitments.

71. That new, truly global approach to development, based on the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg commitments, offered a unique opportunity to rid the world of poverty and hunger. Its underpinnings were education and efforts to combat illiteracy, improvements in health conditions and legal and social systems, good governance and respect for the rule of law. The Second Committee should therefore follow that approach and find ways of improving the daily lives of the world's poorest peoples, by taking innovative decisions.

72. As a member of specialized agencies for the past 30 years and as a State Member of the United Nations since 1993, Monaco had increased its involvement, particularly in the area of ODA. For many years his Government had supported the activities of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNEP, as well as those of non-governmental organizations based in Monaco. It was also cooperating with local bodies on microfinancing projects.

73. The United Nations was more than ever at the centre of development. Delegations must show that they were capable of taking up the challenge of implementing the goals set by Governments, and Governments should be aware that only a form of globalization based on a development model that took into account basic human needs and the values of justice, morality and equity could produce lasting benefits.

74. **Mr. Abelian** (Armenia) said that the end of the millennium had been marked by globalization, which was the natural offshoot of technological advances in communications and transport. Globalization had also been favoured by the conducive environment provided by the rules and market-access commitments of a multilateral system. Government policy and modern technology had therefore encouraged companies to operate across national borders.

75. Post-communist transition was a historical change from a centrally planned system to an open market economy, coupled with the process of democratization. Trade liberalization and the opening-up of formerly centrally planned economies to the inflow of foreign investment were vital to a successful economic transition and subsequent integration into the world economy.

76. Together with the other countries in transition, Armenia was attempting to adjust to the many difficulties associated with economic, cultural and political transformation. His country had a relatively good record in terms of transition, and had made considerable efforts to create a favourable macroeconomic climate. However, the strengthening of financial stability remained the key issue. In that respect, cooperation with international financial organizations was increasingly important.

77. Like any country in transition, Armenia attached great importance to attracting foreign investment, and realized that such investment was crucial for economic

growth. His Government had created the necessary legal conditions to guarantee the right of private ownership for foreign investors, and also intended to increase export-led production. Liberalization and integration into the world trading system were the main aims of Armenia's foreign trade policy. In that context, his country had applied for WTO membership, and the accession process was at an advanced stage.

78. It should be borne in mind that any economic and transport blockade against a country was a major obstacle to the development of international trade. Armenia condemned the continuing practice of unilateral coercive economic measures, particularly in the South Caucasus, on the grounds that they seriously hampered both the implementation of regional projects and the elaboration of new programmes. The lack of territorial access to the sea, in addition to the blockade of transport routes, continued to restrict Armenia's potential for economic progress. Now that regional economic groupings had become an integral part of the world economic order, the States of the South Caucasus needed to form a common market to overcome the economic slump.

79. Armenia did not see the region as being condemned to marginalization, and felt that cooperation in the region was the key to stability and prosperity. Indeed, it was difficult to imagine a fully integrated world economy without regional cooperation. His country was actively involved in the process of regional integration within the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC). Armenia was also a member of two European transport programmes that could have an effect on the region, provided that all those who wished to participate were allowed to do so freely.

80. His Government was committed to the principles enshrined in the Millennium Declaration, and had therefore become an initiator in developing and implementing relevant national programmes. The Monterrey Consensus demonstrated the importance which the international community attached to sound domestic policies, a new partnership for development, and regional cooperation. Armenia planned to adopt a programme to combat poverty that was based on a trilateral dialogue between the Government, civil society and international agencies. His country was also committed to reforming its civil service, improving the management system and combating corruption.

81. Delegates at the World Summit on Sustainable Development had emphasized the need for development processes that met the needs of the present generation, without hampering the ability of future generations to meet theirs. The Johannesburg Summit had been an outstanding opportunity to convey to the international community that appropriate efforts to save the environment and overcome social poverty were the most profitable investments for a better future.

82. **Mr. Kafando** (Burkina Faso) recalled that more than 10 years had passed since the international community had set itself the goal of creating a North-South partnership to achieve sustainable development for the benefit of the peoples concerned and promote better environmental protection. Yet instead of the achievement of these goals, the world had seen a worsening of economic disparities between the North and the South which had been further aggravated by the disadvantages of globalization. Responsibility for that was shared between the industrialized countries, which had constantly flouted their commitments, and the developing countries, which had not always performed well, particularly in the area of good governance.

83. That was not a reason to become pessimistic, however: the prospects opened up by the Millennium Summit, the fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, the third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development were a source of hope. Priority should be given to combating poverty, since some 1.5 billion people still lived on less than a dollar a day. Accordingly, the global strategic framework for anti-poverty measures should focus more on bringing about a significant improvement in the income levels, and thus the living conditions, of the poor.

84. Combating poverty also involved taking into account the necessary interaction between development and the environment, since all development required a healthy environment in order to be sustainable. The rapid reduction in the ozone layer, the worrying extinction of plant and animal species, galloping desertification and progressive deforestation were thus alarming signs. Everyone was responsible for eliminating those obstacles, and the international

community should become much more actively involved.

85. His Government had entered into initiatives with its development partners for the achievement of sustainable development goals. A new development strategy, focusing on the concept of human security, had been formulated. Its implementation was strengthened by a process of democratization and decentralization which provided an opportunity for greater civil society participation in development activities at the local level. Thanks to that political environment and the major economic and structural reforms that had been undertaken, the country's economy had been achieving average annual growth rates of about 5 per cent since 1975, basic social service coverage had improved somewhat and environmental protection had become a constant concern of all parties involved in development. Yet despite that undeniable progress, Burkina Faso was still struggling with a social deficit, extreme poverty and a vulnerable population in the face of adversities of many kinds, including the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS, which was having a major impact on productivity, particularly in the agricultural sector.

86. The peoples of the world expected United Nations bodies to find lasting solutions to their survival problems. Those bodies should therefore be more deeply involved in all activities to assist vulnerable population groups living in the world's most disadvantaged areas, including Africa. Particular attention should also be paid to the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Lastly, further appeals must be made for support from the international community so that development financing might become a reality in the near future.

87. **Mr. Fedotov** (Russian Federation) said that the issues to be addressed by the Second Committee during the current session were important and topical in the light of new objectives related to the implementation of the outcomes of major international conferences on poverty eradication, the achievement of sustainable development and the creation of a fair international financial and economic system.

88. The most significant outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development was the reaffirmation of support for the objectives of sustainable development and determination to increase joint efforts to attain them, chiefly by using the tools provided by the United Nations. It was important to begin implementing the decisions taken at the Summit and to intensify dialogue on the conversion of debts into environmental investments and on the reimbursement of ecological services rendered by countries contributing to the world ecology. Preparations for the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol were under way in the Russian Federation, and an international conference on climate was being prepared for October 2003 which would be line with the Kyoto process.

89. No less important was the full implementation of the decisions of the International Conference on Financing for Development, which held out realistic prospects for enhancing development assistance while increasing its efficiency. The success of those efforts would be assured by strengthened cooperation between the United Nations, the Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and the private sector.

90. Proposals for rationalizing the work of the Second Committee should be thoroughly considered, taking into account the outcomes of the aforementioned conferences. The need to ensure integrated and coordinated follow-up to the decisions of the landmark conferences of the past decade had long been recognized. The practice of mechanical mid-term reviews should be abandoned. It would be more reasonable to use the existing mechanisms, particularly the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, more efficiently.

91. The problem of managing globalization processes was coming to the fore in United Nations activities. In that context, United Nations assistance aimed at helping developing countries and countries with economies in transition take advantage of the benefits of globalization was especially important, particularly in the areas of international trade and foreign investment. Moreover, WTO should become a truly universal organization. His delegation favoured a non-discriminatory application of that organization's rules, including those relating to the accession of new States.

92. The problem of the debt burden, especially in the poorest countries, remained acute. As a member of the Group of Eight, the Russian Federation was making a significant contribution to the realization of the Highly Indebted Poor Countries initiative.

93. His Government attached great importance to promoting international cooperation to prevent and eliminate corruption, money-laundering and the illegal export of capital. It therefore favoured the creation of an international legal framework to address the repatriation of illegally transferred funds obtained through corrupt practices, within the framework of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Drafting of an International Convention against Corruption. That task was ever more urgent since such crimes were often linked with financial flows which fed international terrorism.

94. The operational activities of the United Nations should be further strengthened, with emphasis on enhancing their efficiency and their practical benefits for recipient countries. It was thus of the utmost importance to reaffirm the leading role of Governments and national responsibility, and to ensure more efficient management of resources based on strict observance of the principles of universality, free will, grant nature and neutrality.

95. His delegation welcomed the strengthened cooperation between the United Nations and the private sector, particularly in the context of the Secretary-General's Global Compact Initiative. A rapidly growing number of Russian businesses subscribed to the principles enshrined in the Global Compact.

96. The United Nations and international financial institutions should continue to focus on providing assistance to countries with economies in transition, many of which had yet to complete their integration into the world economy. His delegation believed that an updated resolution on the issue should be adopted, and counted on the support of all other delegations.

97. He concluded his statement with a brief description of the economic situation in the Russian Federation. Real progress had been made in, inter alia, sustaining economic growth, developing the market infrastructure, strengthening private property guarantees and improving the investment climate. At the same time, his Government realized the necessity of developing as soon as possible an economic model that would be less dependent on the natural resources and energy sectors and would ensure a more stable growth potential and improved competitiveness among Russian producers. That in turn would make it possible to attain the ultimate goal, which was to ensure a decent standard of living for all citizens of the Russian Federation.

98. **Mr. Akinsanya** (Nigeria) supported the statement made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The modest achievements of major conferences held in 2002, such as the Fourth Ministerial Conference of WTO, the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, had provided the international community with a clear vision and course of action on its various commitments. Precious time should therefore not be spent renegotiating the principles of its commitments. Instead, deliberations should focus on how to deliver on those commitments with practical steps towards implementation.

99. The Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole had just completed the first phase of the final review and appraisal of the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. It was well known that the verdict of the independent panel of experts on the implementation of the New Agenda had been "very disappointing". Delegation after delegation had agreed with the main thrust of the panel's verdict and the need to draw useful lessons from it. In that connection, his delegation wished to point out the correlation between the failure of donors to live up to their commitments and the failure of the New Agenda to serve its intended purpose. In future, it was important to ensure that all parties honoured their pledges.

100. While Nigeria recognized the potential of globalization as it transformed some societies, it was also aware that such benefits remained unevenly distributed. As President Obasanjo had remarked in his statement to the General Assembly on 15 September 2002, there was no shortage of international goodwill and commitment to development. Various declarations and programmes had eloquently addressed both the need for rapid and sustainable development, and the desire for equitable distribution of the world's wealth. It was evident that the benefits of globalization needed to be shared evenly, as there could be no peace and stability in an unjust world characterized by pervasive inequalities, poverty, disease and underdevelopment. In that regard, Nigeria noted with satisfaction the support shown for NEPAD by the international community. In particular, Nigeria welcomed the pledges of the Group of Eight and the European Union. It was of crucial importance for those words of support to be matched with concrete action. It was vital for NEPAD to break

with the past, since it represented the collective resolve of Africa to renew itself by taking the lead in transforming the continent, and because the initiative could not be allowed to fail as the New Agenda had.

101. All efforts would be in vain if the harmful consequences of the debt burden on African countries were not remedied. The lessons of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative were instructive: after six years of spirited implementation, only 18 countries out of 33 had attained the "decision point", and of those 18, only four had been able to reach the "completion point" to qualify for total debt cancellation. Furthermore, even if all donor countries were to reach their 0.7 per cent levels of ODA disbursements to African countries, Africa would still remain a net exporter of capital as a result of debt payment and servicing obligations. Nigeria was therefore convinced that debt cancellation for African countries was a necessary practical step, as it would release substantial revenue for investment in priority socio-economic programmes. It was Nigeria's view that there was an urgent need to review the HIPC initiative and to expand its coverage to include middle-income countries.

102. Desertification was one of the severest scourges affecting Africa. As one of the donors to GEF, Nigeria was happy that the Facility was once more in a strong position to continue with its commendable work.

103. He urged the Committee to remain focused on the wider context of peace and development, and on ways to achieve sustainable development. In that connection, and without seeking to pre-empt the outcome of the ongoing negotiations in Vienna on an international convention against corruption, his delegation was of the opinion that illicit funds derived from corrupt and illegal means should be returned to their countries of origin. It was essential for the international community to realize the dangers posed to peace and development by ill-gotten wealth and, in particular, by the misuse of such wealth to finance arms, ammunition, terrorism and to fuel domestic conflicts.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.